

141661) Rochester
CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Urban Sanitary District

and

Port Sanitary District

1930

ROCHESTER :

GALLARD & SON, PRINTERS, 336 HIGH STREET

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The coat of arms of the County of Flanders is depicted. It features a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter contains a lion passant guardant. The top-right quarter is filled with a pattern of small dots. The bottom-left quarter contains a cross fleury. The bottom-right quarter is also filled with a pattern of small dots. Above the shield is a crown with three towers.

SAYE HOUSE
2 CASTLE HILL
ROCHESTER
May 2nd, 1931

NTLEMEN,

According to the wishes of the Ministry of Health, this Report is of a more simple character than the Survey Report which was prepared for 1925, but it contains certain information in more detail than has been given in the Reports for the last four years.

Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer of Health

Senior Sanitary Inspector

Sanitary Inspectors

* A. H. W. CHAPMAN, C.S.I.E.B., C.M.I.

Veterinary Inspector (part time)
ELMER EBBETTS, M.R.C.V.S.

§ § ♯ † ♯ || * MISS H. G. TOD
§ § ♯ † ♯ || * MISS C. J. GEELEHER

MISS W. JONES

- * Indicates officials to whose salaries contributions are made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.
- † Also District Nursing Certificate.
- || Certificate of Central Midwives Board.
- 7 Four years General Training.
- ¶ Royal Sanitary Institute, Certificate for Health Visitors.
- ‡ " " O.E.X.O.I. " " " Sanitary Inspectors,
- § Infectious Diseases Certificate.
- § Hygiene Diploma and Tropical Nursing.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA (IN ACRES), LAND AND INLAND WATER	...	...	...	...	...	2.9
	CENSUS 1921					ESTIMATED 1929
POPULATION	...	...	31933	...	...	31.4
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	7.0
	" (end of 1930) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS					7.7
NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921)	...	...	...	...	...	7.2
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	£178.3
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	...	...	...	...	...	£

*In a Memorandum from the Ministry of Health it is stated that the Registrar General in computing his estimate of population for mid-year 1930, intends to take into account the 1931 Census. The Ministry accordingly advise that the mid-year 1929 estimate of population be used for the purposes of this Report.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The prosperity of Rochester, as heretofore, depends mostly on its River Trade on the Cement Industry, on Agriculture (in connection with which there is Cattle Market), on Engineering Works, and on the proximity of the Royal Dockyard at Chatham. It may be added that many visitors are attracted to the City by its Historical Buildings, including the Castle, the Cathedral and the Guildhall, and also by its numerous Dickensian associations.

There is no evidence of any occupational influence on the health of the inhabitants.

The population is both Residential and Working Class, the latter greatly predominating.

VITAL STATISTICS

VITAL STATISTICS					
		TOTAL	M.	F.	
BIRTHS	{ LEGITIMATE	455	252	203	} BIRTH RATE 15.1 (R.G.)
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	27	13	14	
STILL BIRTHS		18	9	9	} RATE PER 1000
DEATHS	...	331	184	147	
					} TOTAL BIRTHS 37.3 (R.G.)
					} DEATH RATE 10.5 (R.G.)
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS 32.9					
NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF,					{ FROM SEPSIS
CHILDBIRTH					{ OTHER CAUSES
...					
...					
...					
...					

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS

LEGITIMATE, 52.7	ILLEGITIMATE, 74	TOTAL, 53.
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (ALL AGES)	...	...
" " WHOOPING COUGH (ALL AGES)	...	...
" " DIARRHŒA (UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE)	...	...

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Death appears at the end of the Report on Page

The following Table shews a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1930.

	Rate per 1000 of the Population		Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Births	Deaths	
England and Wales (on 1930 estimated population)	...	...	60
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London (on 1929 estimated population)	...	...	64
159 Smaller Towns. Populations from 20,000 to 50,000 in 1921 (on 1929 estimated population)	...	...	55
London (on 1929 estimated population)	15.7	11.4	59
Rochester (1929 estimated population)	15.1	10.5	53.9

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1930 and Five Previous Years

Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non- Registered in the District	Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett. Births.	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1925	{ 32080* 31980†	538	539	16.8	507	15.8	193	47	30	55.6	361	11.2
1926	{ 31350* 31270†	571	578	18.4	539	17.2	230	53	30	51.9	362	11.5
1927	{ 30860* 30760†	507	514	16.6	529	17.1	217	57	22	42.8	369	11.9
1928	{ 31760* 31280†	458	485	15.2	508	16.2	208	65	21	43.2	365	11.6
1929	31400	469	488	15.5	609	19.3	257	59	32	65.5	411	13.0
1930	31900* 31400†	456	482	15.1	478	15.2	213	66	26	53.9	331	10.5

* For Birth Rate † For Death Rate

As explained in an earlier part of this Report, the estimated population at the middle of 1929 is taken for the purposes of ascertaining the various "Rates" in the year 1930.

COMMENTS ON TABLE 1. POPULATION

The population of the District at the Census of 1921 was stated to be 31,981. In the middle of 1929 the Registrar General estimated it to be 31,400, and it is on this figure that the various calculations and "Rates" are made in the present Report. The Registrar General does not make an estimate for the middle of 1930, preferring to wait until the results of the 1931 Census are available when a greater accuracy can be attained. Any further remarks can also wait until then, beyond the expression of opinion that the 1931 Census returns will probably show an increase of population rather than the decrease indicated by the estimate.

THE BIRTH RATE

The Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population is 15.1 or .4 lower than in 1929, and it is the lowest on record. It is 1.1 lower than that of the 159 "smaller towns" in the Country.

THE DEATH RATE

The Death Rate from all causes and at all ages is 10.5. This is 2.5 lower than in 1929 and lower than any figure for the preceding five years. It is the same as that of the 159 "smaller towns." This satisfactory decline in the Death Rate is probably due to the generally mild weather of the year and to the absence of any devastating epidemic.

THE INFANT DEATH RATE

The Infant Death Rate was 53.9, which is 11.6 lower than in 1929. Its average for the preceding five years is 51.8. It is 1.1 lower than that of the 159 "smaller towns." It can be regarded as very satisfactory.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY

There were no special causes during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

A list of these is given on page 3.

2. NURSING IN THE HOME

a. GENERAL

The arrangements for this were fully set forth in the Report for 1928 and have undergone no change.

b. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No nursing is provided by the Health Authority.

3. MIDWIVES

These are entirely controlled by the County Council. There are six practising in the Area.

4. NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE

The Local Authority is in no way concerned with this except in so far as concerning its own employees.

5. LABORATORY FACILITIES

CHEMICAL

So far as regards Food and Drugs, analyses are carried out by the City Analysts and the results for the year appear on page 21.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL

The work under this heading is carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition, a Quarterly Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis of the Strood Water is made by Dr. Spitta, of St. George's Hospital, London.

The various results appear in other parts of the Report.

6. LEGISLATION IN FORCE

LOCAL ACTS, LOCAL ORDERS, ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS

The following are in force :—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1880	...	Adopted in 1891
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890	...	„ 1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	„ 1892
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907	...	„ 1910
Public Health Act, 1925, (Parts II. to V.)	...	„ 1926
Superannuation Act, 1922	...	„ 1926

Bye-Laws :—

Slaughter Houses	...	Made in September, 1921
Offensive Trades (Fish Frying)	...	„ December, 1911
Common Lodging Houses (P.H.A. 1875)		

7. HOSPITALS

A. FEVER

St. William's Isolation Hospital, situated in the District, and serving Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham, provides about 100 beds, and takes in cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. The accommodation has proved amply sufficient throughout the year. This Hospital is controlled by the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.

B. SMALL POX

There is a Hospital of 24 beds, capable of extension, in the District, for the joint use of Rochester and Chatham. Gillingham makes its own provision for Small Pox. This Hospital also is controlled by the Rochester and Chatham Joint Hospital Board.

C. OTHER

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER

This Voluntary General Hospital serves a very large area and a population of over 200,000. Its beds, numbering 126, are allocated as follows :—

Medical	...	37	Surgical	...	77
Orthopædic	...	4	Ophthalmic	...	8

It has the following Special Departments :—

Massage	Orthopædic	Electrical
Remedial Exercises	Pathological	“ X ” Ray
Ophthalmic	Ear, Nose and Throat	Medical Diseases of Children
Genito-Urinary		

The accommodation is insufficient for the large Area served and at the present time an appeal is being made for £80,000 to enable the Hospital to do its work in a complete and efficient manner. Up to now nearly £50,000 has been raised.

There are no other Hospitals in the District either Voluntary or Public.

The following information is supplementary to the above :—

a. TUBERCULOSIS

The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council and suitable cases from this District are admitted to their Sanatoria as occasion demands. There is no Sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the District.

b. MEDWAY INSTITUTION, CHATHAM

This Institution, which serves part of the City of Rochester, has the following number of beds: Total 479, Tuberculosis 38, Children (including 8 maternity cots) 4, Maternity 8, General 409.

c. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE INSTITUTION, STROOD

This Institution serves a large District, there are 110 beds, 4 of which are for maternity cases and 8 for Tuberculosis patients.

d. MATERNITY

There is a Maternity Home at Gillingham to which patients are admitted on payment. Not enough use is made of this facility, although those who control the Home are always ready to modify the charges in cases of necessity. There are also eight Maternity beds at the Medway Institution, and there is a small Maternity Home of three beds at Strood, and another of six beds in Rochester.

e. CHILDREN

There is a Children's Ward at St Bartholomew's Hospital, and beds for 10 children at the Medway Institution.

f. MENTAL, AND MENTAL DEFICIENCY

There is no special provision for these diseases in the District, except such as provided at the Medway and Strood Institutions.

g. PUERPERAL FEVER AND PYREXIA

Cases of these diseases are admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

h. OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Cases of this disease, are, when urgent, admitted to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

9. MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

There are two of these in the District. They are required to observe the By-Laws and to keep accurate records of their patients. They are visited from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and at regular intervals by a Health Visitor.

There have been no applications for registration during the year, or any order cancelling registration.

10. MATERNAL MORTALITY

No special arrangements have been made for the investigation of maternal deaths and of cases of puerperal fever and puerperal pyrexia, other than that all the doctors practising in the District have been advised that in such cases, any information they can give will be sought by the Medical Officer of Health, in confidence, and he will prepare a report on each case.

11. PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

There is no Institutional provision for any of these except such as is afforded by the Public Assistance Authorities.

13. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

a. A Motor Ambulance is kept at St. William's Hospital for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease from Rochester and Chatham. Gillingham remove their own cases to Hospital.

b. A Motor Ambulance for non-Infectious and Accident Cases is maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association and is available at all times. A further Motor Ambulance is kept by the Corporation for street accidents.

14. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

	Situation	Accommodation	By whom Provided
SCHOOL CLINIC	Strood House, The Common, Rochester	Sufficient	Rochester Education Committee
TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY	13 New Road, Rochester	Sufficient	Kent County Council
TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES	36 New Road, Rochester	Sufficient	Kent County Council
CENTRE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF MILK	The New Corn Exchange, Northgate, Rochester	Sufficient	Rochester Corporation

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The Water Supply of Rochester is in two portions, one for each side of the River. On the North side the supply is from a shallow well in the chalk and is the property of the Corporation. The water is satisfactory both in quantity and quality and is subjected to a monthly Bacteriological Analysis by the County Council's Bacteriologist, and to a quarterly Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis by Dr. Spitta, St. George's Hospital, London. The crude water is treated by "Chloros" and subsequent filtration through charcoal and sand. The result is a water nearly sterile and in which the bacillus Coli is never found.

This water, before treatment, is liable to a varying degree of invasion of micro-organisms, but the B. Coli is not found in large numbers, while the Chemical Analysis rarely affords evidence of any considerable contamination. It may, in short, be said that the crude water is usually potable without the treatment by "Chloros," while the latter provides a precautionary measure capable of dealing with a contamination any times greater than has ever arisen, or, so far as one can see, is ever likely to arise.

The water on the South Side of the River is from the wells of the Chatham and District Water Company. These wells are in the chalk and greensand. Frequent bacteriological and Chemical Analyses are made with unvarying satisfactory results. In connection with this supply a new pumping station is being erected at Nashenden, and a new reservoir of a capacity of two million gallons, is being constructed near the Borstal Institution.

The supplies in both instances are constant and sufficient.

RAINFALL

The Rainfall for the year, registered at Strood Waterworks, was 26.38 inches, as compared with 21.03 inches in 1929, 27.29 inches in 1928 and 31.84 inches in 1927.

The average of the preceding ten years is 24.69.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only River in the District is the River Medway, and this is still subject to pollution from the drainage of some houses and of other premises which are mostly the property of the Government. These particular sources of pollution however, are now becoming much less, as connections are being made almost daily with the system of Main Drainage. A further source of pollution arises from the shipping, both Admiralty and Merchant, which is constantly passing up and down the River.

There are no Streams in the District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

An account was given in the Report for 1928 of the system of Main Drainage which is now in operation, jointly, for the Districts of Rochester and Chatham.

So far as Rochester is concerned, the number of houses up to the end of 1930 connected with the system was 2628. Up to the end of 1929 it was 1609, and as this number included the whole of Borstal which was taken in by one connection, and a large number of Council houses, the average rate of connecting up by private property owners has been about 1000 houses per annum. At the end of 1930 there remained about 5000 premises not connected to the new sewerage system.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 60 privies, all the houses in the District are provided with Water Closets. During the past year 62 privies were converted into W.C.'s. This makes a total of nearly 1000 conversions brought about by the Health Department in the last 23 years.

SCAVENGING

The removal of household refuse is carried out by the City Surveyor's Department and there is no material change in the methods described in last year's Report.

Particularly is there no change in the domestic methods of storing refuse, which continue to be of a makeshift and insanitary character, such as must discredit a City, which has, in many other directions, put its house in good order. Rochester takes a legitimate pride in its Historical and Ancient Buildings, its Cathedral, Castle, Guildhall and others. It does not add either to the beauty or interest of these buildings, that at their feet is to be seen a heterogeneous collection of buckets, wooden boxes, old pans, filled, generally uncovered and often overflowing with household refuse.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my 23rd Annual Report on the work done in connection with the Sanitary Inspection of the City.

11,177 Inspections and Visits were made in the execution of various duties in the course of the year. This was 4,847 higher than the average for the previous five years, and was only possible through much time being given to official work in the evenings and on Sundays. Reference to the purpose and results of these visits is made under the various sub-headings of this Report.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

40 houses were inspected and formally reported upon to the Council under the Housing Act, 1925. They were as follows:—

Banning Street	...	3	Princes Street	...	1
Bill Street Road	...	1	Richard Street	...	1
Burritt Street	...	1	Ruby Cottages	...	6
Cecil Road	...	1	St. Mary's Road	...	1
Glanville Road	...	1	St. Peter's Place	...	5
Gun Lane	...	2	Slatin Road	...	1
John Street	...	2	Strood High St.	...	1
King Street	...	1	Union Street	...	1
Kitchener Road	...	9	Windmill Street	...	1
			Weston Road	...	1

Total 40

It will be noticed from the above list that practically no systematic house-to-house inspection of any one street was made, nor was this possible owing to the constant heavy demands on time for supervision and testing of domestic drainage work associated with sewer connections. It is hoped that in 1931 it will be possible to resume systematic housing inspections, as a special assistant has now been appointed in the City Surveyor's Department for drainage work supervision only, and this should release one Sanitary Inspector for other duties.

Closing Orders under the Housing Act, 1925, were made regarding six cottages Nos. 32, 34 and 36, London Road, and Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Commodore Wharf. Action regarding Nos. 1 to 6 Ruby Cottages was deferred pending the Council, as Freeholder taking over the property in 1931, with the intention of subjecting the property to Demolition Orders.

Demolition Orders were made regarding 9 houses, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Eagle Court and Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 Garden Row, High Street.

Two cottages, Nos. 1 and 2 Clarke's Yard, North Street, were demolished during the past year. These cottages were closed voluntarily by the owners some years ago after service of informal notices, but were allowed to stand for use as stores. As the condition was getting worse and they were in complete disuse, representation was made to the owners who had them demolished.

At the end of the year the position with regard to condemned houses not demolished was as follows:—

	Number Condemned		Number Occupied
Good Square	4	...	3
Angle Court	3	...	1
Garden Row	6	...	1
Commodore Wharf	3	...	1
London Road	3	...	3
	<u>19</u>		<u>9</u>

There was, however, immediate prospect of Council housing accommodation being provided for tenants of five of the nine houses still occupied.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

In years previous to the commencement of connecting up houses to the new sewerage system, there was usually recorded under the above heading large numbers of miscellaneous housing and sanitary improvements effected principally through the device of informal notices after inspections of properties. During the past year 1,026 premises were dealt with by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors, and 2,887 insanitary conditions and defects were remedied. The outstanding figures are those relating to new drainage and and sanitary fittings. 583 houses were completely or partly re-erected, and sanitary fittings were renewed under Sanitary Inspectors' supervision. This involved 6,299 visits for preliminary investigations and to work in progress, the application of 3,579 water tests to new drains, and 378 smoke tests to drains and fittings, apart from hundreds of interviews with property owners and builders at the office. Close supervision of new drainage work is at all times necessary, but when occupied houses are being re-drained, everything possible has to be done to facilitate rapid execution of the work. Of necessity, tenants are temporarily deprived of the use of W.C.'s, sinks, etc., causing serious inconvenience, to which is added the danger of open trenches close to the dwellings. Consequently, the procedure has been to pay daily visits to direct the exact manner in which various sections of the drainage shall be laid, thus avoiding demands for alterations after pipes have been laid and fittings fixed and connected, and to test each section immediately it was ready in order to permit of trenches being filled in and the drain being put into use. In many cases new drainage work is a costly matter for property owners, and they naturally expect that their interests also are safeguarded by constant supervision of the work.

A matter worth special note is that the new sewerage scheme has made it possible to deal with insanitary privies which previously could not be converted into water closets because the subsoil water was within a few feet of ground level, and so cesspools could not be constructed to receive drainage from them. Theobald Square was a typical example, and the abolition of the privy pits there, the provision of water closets, new sinks, entire new drainage, and the reconstruction, alteration or repair of the outbuildings, etc., cost the owners over £1,000. The 102 houses in Temple Street and open-seated privies which were even more offensive, but the conversion to water closets at 53 houses is now complete. At each of these last mentioned houses also, new sinks and water supply were provided in the wash-houses, there was complete new drainage, the yards were re-paved, and considerable repairs were done to outbuildings, the whole work costing about £1,400. The other half of the street will be dealt with in the current year. Incidentally, this opportunity may be taken to dispel the wrong impressions created by statements that sewer connections of themselves are very costly. It is only in a comparatively few cases where existing drainage is sound and modern construction that considerable alterations have had to be made in order to connect the drains to the sewer. In by far the greater number of cases, existing drains which have had to be re-laid at comparatively high cost were already in such an unsatisfactory condition that irrespective of the sewer connection they ought to have been renewed in the interests of health.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

DRAINAGE AND SANITARY FITTINGS

Houses re-drained	...	...	506
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	77
Defective drains repaired	...	...	1
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	167
New ventilated soilpipes fixed	...	...	23
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	213
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	62
Earth closets converted into W.C.'s	...	...	4
Trough closets abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	6
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	23
W.C.'s provided with new pans and traps	...	...	466
W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	133
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	65
New urinals built	...	...	3
Dangerous cesspools filled in	...	...	16
New sinks fixed	...	...	134
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	303
New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	5
Water Tests applied	...	3579	
Smoke Tests applied	...	378	

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses closed	...	...	6
No. of houses demolished	...	...	2
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	39
Roofs repaired	...	...	45
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	28
Rain Water pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	5
Damp walls remedied	...	...	24
Yards re-paved	...	...	26
Yard paving repaired	...	...	13
Defective floors repaired	...	...	21
Defective windows repaired	...	...	66
Defective walls and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	33
Defective stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	14
Defective brickwork repaired and brickwork re-pointed	...	...	56
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	42
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	41
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	61
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	1
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	15
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	7
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	135
Total			2887

VERMINOUS DWELLINGS

26 houses and a total of 61 rooms were fumigated or sprayed thoroughly during past year because of infestation with bugs. Some cases were so bad that it was necessary to remove skirting boards, window and door frame mouldings, picture rails, even mantel shelves, in order to get access for the effective use of destructive agents. It is no exaggeration to say that in certain instances hundreds of bugs were destroyed each room, and that was in connection with comparatively new property. It is the exception to find a house which is condemned as being structurally unfit for human habitation, and which is not also infested with such vermin. When the tenants move, it is almost certain that they will take some bugs or eggs with them in the crevices of furniture or in their belongings, and long familiarity with vermin in the dwelling they have just left makes them indifferent to the appearance of a few odd bugs in their new abode. To gauge the result, it is sufficient to say that a female bug may deposit as many as 200 eggs in six months. Once bugs get well established in a house, particularly in one that is old, with badly fitting woodwork, old and plaster partitions, and cracked wall and ceiling plaster, it is most difficult to eradicate them completely.

CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING

8,002 loads of sewage were pumped from cesspools during the year, as compared with 9,736 in 1929. In 1928, 10,551 loads were removed, thus indicating that although to the end of last year 2,628 houses had been connected to the sewers, the quantity of sewage taken from cesspools had only been reduced by 2,549 loads in two years. It must again be explained however, that a considerable amount of emptying had to be done, not because the cesspools were full, but because the respective houses were not connected to the sewer, and disused cesspools could not be left with considerable quantities of sewage in them. It must also be pointed out that at the time of writing this Report, there are over 4,500 houses not yet connected to the new sewers, and so there is a prospect that the cleansing of cesspools will cause a considerable amount of work and expense for some time to come.

1,169 loads of sludge were removed from privies and cesspools during 1930, as compared with 1,195 loads the previous year. Here again, a considerable part of the work was sludging out cesspools which were to be put into disuse because of main drainage connections. The total annual cost works out at about 35/- per load, and until the connection of houses to the sewers is complete, this work will have to be continued, whether it is done by the Council or as a charge against the properties concerned.

FOOD INSPECTION

This work includes inspection of carcases, etc., in slaughter houses, and visits to cowsheds and dairies, to food shops and to bakehouses: food sampling for analysis or for other purposes is an associated branch of the work. In all, 1,509 visits were made, and, as is usual, by far the greater number, 1,161, were made to slaughter houses. The number of these visits should be increased to make the inspection of meat in the city complete, but here again pressure of other work put limitations on the time which could be allotted to slaughter houses and butchers' shops. The record of food condemned, given below, gives indication however, that much effective work was done:—

5 carcases, etc., of cows	(Tuberculosis)
5 forequarters of cows	do.
2 hindquarters of cows	do.
1 carcase, etc., of a steer	do.
5 forequarters of heifers	do.
1 carcase, etc., of a calf	do.

5 carcasses of pork	(1 Tuberculosis, 1 Leucocythemia, 2 Swine Erysipelas, 1 Pleurisy and Peritonitis)
28 carcasses of sheep and lambs	(19 Bruises and Bone Fractures, 8 Emaciation and Dropsy, 1 Caseous Lymphadenitis)
26 ox heads and tongues	(Tuberculosis)
25 ox livers	(8 Tuberculosis, 6 Parasites, 5 Cavernous Angioma, 3 Abscesses, 3 Cirrhosis)
2 calves' plucks	(Tuberculosis)
34 pigs' heads and tongues	(Tuberculosis)
32 pigs' livers	(29 Cirrhosis, 2 Necrosis, 1 Parasites)
3 pigs' plucks	(Tuberculosis)
9 sheep's livers	(8 Parasites, 1 Abscess)
144 lbs. home-killed beef	(Putrefaction)
93 lbs. imported beef	(Bone Taint)
3 legs mutton and lamb	(Bruises)
27 lbs. unsound fish	
6 6-lbs. tins corned beef	

It is perhaps of interest to mention that the case of leucocythemia was the first seen in a slaughter house in Rochester in 23 years. It is a comparatively rare disease in the pig, but my interpretation of the abnormal conditions in the animal was proved to be correct by the Royal Veterinary College, to which specimens were sent through the kindness of Mr. R. A. Edwards, M.R.C.V.S.

In all cases where tuberculosis is found in bovines to an extent involving condemnation of the whole carcass, the place of origin of the animal is ascertained and notified to the County Medical Officer who in turn has samples of milk taken from the premises for bacteriological examination. The calf mentioned in the above tabular statement was suffering from congenital tuberculosis, and the procedure just referred to, ultimately resulted in the mother cow being destroyed under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Details of the 73 samples of foodstuffs taken for analysis during the year are given on page 21 of the Medical Officer of Health's Report. It will there be noted that the Analyst reported five samples of milk as being adulterated. It should be stated that all five samples were from milk in course of delivery on three different dates at the railway station, and were taken by request of the retailer to whom they were consigned. They ranged from 3.9% to 12% deficiency of fat. There was reasonable ground for doubting that the milk had been tampered with after production, and the producer at Staplehurst came to the office for interview. By arrangement with County Authority officers, two samples were taken at the cowsheds ("appeal to the cow") at the time of production, and the Analyst reported these as being respectively 9% and 11% deficient in fat as compared with the Government minimum standard. No action could justifiably be taken against the producer, but he was referred to the County Agricultural Adviser for advice as to procedure for improving the quality of the milk. The retailer later closed his contract with the producer.

There were two samples of sausage meat noted as being adulterated. They contained very small quantities of boric acid, which is a forbidden preservative. The retailer was cautioned against an recurrence of the offence.

DISINFECTION

180 rooms were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of Infectious Disease

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND OFFICE WORK

Inspections :—

Primary inspection of premises	...	911
House to house inspections	...	40
Caravans inspected	...	73
Re-inspections after service of notices	...	1053
Drainage surveys and visits to work in progress	...	6299
Visits to factories and workshops	...	87
„ bakehouses	...	13
„ slaughter houses	...	1161
„ other premises for food inspection	...	104
„ cowsheds and dairies	...	106
„ offensive trades	...	30
„ stables and mews	...	76
Visits for food sampling and testing	...	75
„ re infectious disease	...	274
Miscellaneous visits	...	875
		<hr/> 11,177

Office Work :—

Letters received and dealt with	...	1028
Complaints received and dealt with	...	284
Letters written	...	773
Intimation notices served	...	958
Notices sent to schools re infectious disease	...	146

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

It has not been necessary during the year to take any action in this matter.

REMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

BAKEHOUSES

There are 16 on the Register and they have been kept under supervision during the year. There is nothing to report on these bakehouses except that they are generally properly conducted and only in one instance was it necessary to ask for considerable structural improvements. The death of the occupier has temporarily delayed further action in the case referred to.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Homework. Wearing Apparel—Lists received, 10. Outworkers, Workmen, 5 Workshops on Register at end of year:—

Workshops, 94. Domestic Workshops, 29. Bakehouses, 16.

Matters notified by H.M. Inspector, 0. Remedied, 0.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	7	—	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	80.	13	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	—	—	
Total	87	13	

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (%)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	5	3		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	9	4		
Sanitary accommodation {insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	1 6	1 2		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	21	10		

LODGING HOUSES

There is one Registered Common Lodging House in the District, and this has been systematically inspected and found to be properly kept.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are 14 in the District, and all are equipped with frying apparatus which conforms with the Bye Laws regulating this business. Periodic visits were made, and only in two instances was it necessary to ask for greater attention to general care and cleanliness.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILK SHOPS

These are referred to on page 20, under the heading of "Inspection and Supervision of Food."

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are five in the City. Three are registered and two licensed.

Details as to inspections and action with regard to unsound meat will be found in the statement of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS

The general Sanitary Condition of the Schools continues to be without serious defect. The trough closets in the two largest schools, Troy Town and Gordon Road, were abolished and replaced by pedestal W.C.'s during the past year; new urinals were provided at Gordon Road, and the drainage of both schools was connected to the sewers, as also was that of Balfour Road School.

The Water Supply at all the Schools is from public sources and is adequate.

The methods used for dealing with Infectious Diseases at Schools and for the health of the scholars, are set out in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

No School or Department of any School has been closed during the year, by reason of the prevalence of Infectious Disease.

HEALTH EDUCATION

The Journal "Better Health" continues to be regularly distributed. 2,000 copies are issued each month at a cost to the Corporation of £13 per annum. It is estimated that every house in the District gets three copies a year and there is no doubt that the Journal is much appreciated and does good work in educating the people in Health matters.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928

No action has been necessary under these Acts during the year.

HOUSING

(a) STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

a. Total (including numbers given separately under (b))				
(1)	By the Local Authority	...	...	50
(2)	By other Local Authorities	...	...	0
(3)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	21
b. With State assistance under the Housing Acts				
(1) By the Local Authority.				
(a)	For the purpose of Part 2 of the Act of 1925	...	...	0
(b)	For the purpose of Part 3 of the Act of 1925	...	...	0
(c)	For other purposes.	...	...	50
(2)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	0

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	83
	and the number of inspections made ...	188
(2)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	4
	and number of inspections made ...	9
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	3

NOTE.—(1) includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers ...	71
---	----

NOTE.—includes houses dealt with for defective drainage and sanitary fittings only.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - a. By Owners ...
 - b. By Local Authority in default of Owners ...
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close ...

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
 - a. By Owners ...
 - b. By Local Authority in default of Owners ...

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...
2. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made
3. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...
4. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
5. No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

4. Number of houses owned by the Local Authority. Total ...

Built during 1929 and 1930 ...

- (1) Held under Part 3, Housing Act, 1925 ...
- (2) Held under Part 2, Housing Act, 1925 ...
- (3) Held under other powers ...

(b). HOUSING CONDITIONS

1. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

By far the larger number of houses in the City are those of working class standard. Of the total of 7,760 houses, there are approximately 800 of a standard superior to the small dwellings type. About 6,660 houses are of the four or five rooms type of dwelling, and of these about half are built with the front directly on to the public footway. The total number of two and three roomed dwellings in the town probably does not exceed 300, and of these about 60 are flats, and there are about the same number of back-to-back dwellings. 831 houses of various types have been built during the past ten years.

There are comparatively few badly dilapidated houses in the district. Between 10 and 60 will probably need demolition within the next five years. A considerable number of houses require miscellaneous repairs and there is an appreciable number of houses affected with dampness in one or more rooms, but only to an extent which can be remedied without excessive cost. There is comparatively little serious congestion of property such as causes inadequate light in rooms and insufficient air space round about dwellings. Two or three of the very oldest blocks of property are favourably situated in this respect and it is intended that the worst of these shall be dealt with by demolition.

2. SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLY OF HOUSES

(a) EXTENT OF SHORTAGE

According to the number of applications for Council houses, there were, about the end of the year, nearly 1,000 families desiring different housing from that they then had. Of these, about 650 were living in rooms.

(b) CHANGE IN POPULATION

There has been no abnormal change in population during the past year, nor is any anticipated in the immediate future.

(c) SITE DIFFICULTIES

Up to the present there has been no special difficulty in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses. The Council have recently purchased an estate of 304 acres just outside the City area, and it is intended that part of this shall be used for housing.

3. OVERCROWDING

(a) EXTENT

Based on the standard that occupation of a bedroom by two adults and one child over six years of age, or by four children of any age, constitutes overcrowding, it would appear from the applications for Council houses that there were, about the end of the year, 269 families living in rooms under conditions of overcrowding, and 37 families in similar conditions in houses.

(b) CAUSES

The principal cause of overcrowding has been lack of sufficient number of houses, but in some instances the financial circumstances of the applicants or the largeness of the families have made it impossible to accept them as tenants.

(c) SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN IN 1930

Bad cases of overcrowding were reported to the Housing Committee for special consideration when new Council houses were being let, and acceptable tenants were given priority in the allocation of tenancies.

4. FITNESS OF HOUSES

(a) DIFFICULTIES, ETC.

No particular difficulties in exercising the powers of Public Health Acts and Section 3, Housing Act, 1925, were experienced, but here again it has to be mentioned that the supervision of drainage work left little time for housing inspections. Owners are, however, at present somewhat reluctant to carry out repairs in view of expenditure necessary for drainage alterations necessitated by connections to the sewer.

(b) SPECIAL ACTION

No special measures were taken or were necessary during the past year in relation to particular types of insanitary property or in regard to arrangements for the gradual carrying out of programmes of repair.

(c) WATER SUPPLY, ETC.

For many years past, action has been taken to have houses fitted with sinks and internal water supply in place of standpipes in yards. There are now less than 2% of the houses in the City that are without the former convenience.

(d) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

As far as is known there are no houses without sanitary accommodation within their own curtilage. There are probably not more than 40 houses in the whole City without separate sanitary accommodation, and in no case is one W.C. used by more than two tenants. With the exception of about 60 houses where there are privies, all other sanitary accommodation consists of water closets drained either to the sewers or to cesspools.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

A. MILK SUPPLIES

The number of registered cow-keepers in the District is 8. There are 18 registered milkshops and dairies, and in addition there are 50 shopkeepers registered for the sale of sterilized milk, which is sold in sealed bottles only.

Visits were made to cowsheds at the time of milking, and, excepting in one instance, it was found that due observance was being given to the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order. The cowkeeper referred to was formally cautioned, and has given no cause for complaint since. The carelessness of employees, rather than the indifference and neglect of the cow-keepers, necessitates fairly frequent visits, and because of the importance of a clean milk supply, it is desirable that this branch of work should be given close attention. Owing to the calls of other duties, it was not possible to give quite so much time to cowshed and dairy inspection as in previous years, but such visits as were made indicated that there had been no appreciable fall from a good standard of cleanliness.

All the dairy cattle were inspected quarterly by Mr. E. EBBETTS, the City Veterinary Inspector, and in no case was action under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, necessary.

It is a matter for satisfaction that the 18 milkshops and dairies now include only two small general shops at which milk is sold, and of these two, one sells milk in sealed bottles only. It is not quite so satisfactory that in three years the number of small shopkeepers registered for the sale of sterilized milk in sealed bottles has risen from 23 to 50. The marked advance made by the City retailers in recent years in the cleanly handling, storage and distribution of fresh milk, makes it appear somewhat strange that there apparently is an increase in the consumption of sterilized milk which is a penny a quart dearer and which in some respects is altered by the process to which it has been subjected.

There is one cowkeeper in the City licensed for the production of Certified Milk and one dairy is licensed as a Pasteurising Establishment. Fourteen samples of graded milk were taken for Bacteriological Examination and 13 of these proved to be in full compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1925.

No systematic sampling of milk for examination for Tubercle Bacilli was done, but for special reasons one sample was taken and a negative report was received from the County Laboratory.

B. MEAT

The Public Health Meat Regulations are, on the whole, properly observed. Details are given in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 13.

C. OTHER FOODS

- a. Unsound Food and Food Inspection.
- b. Sanitary Condition of Premises.
- c. Condemnation for Tuberculosis.

These subjects are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on page 13.

D. FOOD POISONING

No case arose during the year.

E. FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1927

Chemical Analyses of Food are made by the City Analyst, whose Laboratory is at Canterbury.

The following samples were analysed under the above Acts:—

Article	Number	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	39	34	5
Sausage	8	6	2
Sponge Cake	5	5	0
Cream	4	4	0
Butter	4	4	0
Lard	4	4	0
Whiskey	3	3	0
Coffee	3	3	0
Vinegar	2	2	0
Lemonade	1	1	0
	<hr/> 73	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 7

No prosecution was undertaken during the year. Further reference to this is made in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, page 14.

F. NUTRITION (Dissemination of Knowledge)

The Journal "Better Health," before referred to, is the means of giving the people much information on the above subject.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

All specimens are sent to the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

The following is a statement of Bacteriological Work done during the year.

	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	23	116	139
Sputum for Tubercle	28	100	128
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	51	216	267

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection of rooms and their contents is carried out by means of formaldehyde fumigation, after which the free use of soap and water, and of fresh air, is enjoined.

Occasionally, soft articles are steam disinfected at St. William's Hospital.

No steps have been taken during the year with regard to Disinfestation of persons except in such cases as arise amongst School Children, and which are fully described in the School Medical Officer's Report.

TABLE II.

NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1930

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified												Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total Number of Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths	
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years															
		Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over				
Scarlet Fever.....	105		3	7	6	44	24	11	8	2				86	19	92	1
Diphtheria.....	44	2	1	1	1	12	15	4	5	1				40	4	39	1
Pneumonia.....	9								3				3	4	5		14
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	3								2	1				3			
Erysipelas	8							1	1	2			1	6	2		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	1	1													1		
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	1	1													1		3
Totals.....	171	4	1	5	8	7	56	39	16	19	6	6	4	139	32	131	19

VALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES IN 1930

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications—105. Removed to Hospital—92. Deaths—1.
The average number of notifications for the preceding five years is 62.6.
The type of disease has been on the whole of a mild character but there have been a few very severe cases. The admission of mild, uncomplicated cases is not encouraged except from houses which are overcrowded or in which food is prepared for sale or in which other people's clothing is handled. The length of stay in hospital is now usually four weeks, except in complicated cases.
There was no case which could be called an indisputable "Return" case.
The "Dick" Test of susceptibility has not been used.

DIPHTHERIA

Notifications—44. Removed to Hospital—39. Deaths—1.
The average number of notifications for the preceding five years is 56.2.
The "Schick" Test was not used, nor were any measures of artificial immunisation. There was no "Return" case.
139 examinations of swabs, for the purpose of diagnosis, were made during the year, with 23 positive and 116 negative results.
Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is issued free of cost and is available day and night.
During the year there were nine applications for this Serum and 150,000 units were issued at a cost to the Corporation of £8-10-10.
In 1929 the cost was £10-9-8, and in 1928, £43-6-7.
It has been impressed on the doctors practising in the District that the full benefit of the Serum can only be secured if it is given early and in sufficient dose. It is urged that any case which is sufficiently suspicious to have a swab taken, should receive a dose of Serum at the same time, without waiting for the result of the examination of the swab. This appears to be more generally observed than used to be the case, which is all to the good, and most of the advanced and serious cases which are now in hospital are those in which the parents have delayed in sending for a doctor.

ENTERIC FEVER

No case was notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Three cases were notified. There was no death.

PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA

No case was notified.

PNEUMONIA (All Forms)

Nine cases were notified and there were 14 deaths.
In 1929 there were 19 notifications and 29 deaths.

ERYSIPELAS

Eight cases were notified and there was no death.

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER

One case was notified. This case died in a London hospital.

SMALL POX

No case occurred during 1930, but several suspected cases were seen by the Medical Officer of Health, and several contacts required to be kept under observation.
No vaccination or re-vaccination has been undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action has been taken during the year except such as arises at the Venereal Diseases Clinic and by the treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

One case only was notified. Both eyes were affected. The patient was treated in hospital and made a complete recovery.

CANCER

The following Table shews the number of deaths from Cancer, male and female together with the incidence rate per 1000 of the population for the last ten years:

Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate of incidence per 1000 of the population
1930	27	17	44	1·3
1929	22	22	44	1·3
1928	19	25	44	1·3
1927	27	25	52	1·6
1926	24	29	53	1·6
1925	19	27	46	1·4
1924	20	25	45	1·3
1923	19	29	48	1·4
1922	22	23	45	1·4
1921	18	24	42	1·3

No special enquiry has been made, during the year, relating to cancer.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the place and times when Venereal Diseases Clinics are held is freely made known throughout the District by means of Posters, and by being printed in the issues of "Better Health."

The administration of the Clinic is in the hands of the County Council and it is conducted locally by Dr. Hamish Nicol at 36 New Road, Rochester.

The following are the figures for treatment during the last ten years so far as Rochester is concerned:—

Year	New Cases	Attendances
1930	56	2624
1929	103	1849
1928	50	600
1927	32	982
1926	61	1830
1925	52	493
1924	53	642
1923	42	593
1922	37	455
1921	63	705

Dr. Nicol makes no comment on the figures for 1930, but it may be fairly inferred that there is less Venereal Disease in the district, and that those who have contracted it shew a much greater disposition to keep up their attendances at the Clinic until they are cured. Too often a patient with this disease ceases to attend the Clinic when he is a little better, but not cured, with ultimate disastrous results.

The following Table shews the number of Deaths from Non-Notifiable Diseases year by year since 1921 :

TABLE III.

Disease	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921
	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths
Measles	0	8	0	0	9	1	0	3	5	0
Whooping Cough	1	3	0	2	3	5	0	3	2	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	6	4	3	4	2	5	2	2	5
Influenza	6	20	5	20	5	11	7	6	9	11

MEASLES

No death took place during the year, and this disease appeared to be following its usual course of low mortality after a year of high mortality.

WHOOPING COUGH

There was only one death, which, as the above Table shews, is considerably lower than the average of preceding years.

DIARRHŒA (under two years)

The mortality from this disease is also very much lower than in preceding years and it may be taken as a sign that babies under two years of age are getting cleaner food.

INFLUENZA

There were six deaths as against 20 in 1929. It is much lower than the average of preceding years but no one can say when this disease may again exact a greater toll.

OTHER INFORMATION
SCHOOL INTIMATIONS

Every Head Teacher is supplied with a book of forms for the purpose of sending a daily statement to the Medical Officer of Health of children absent from School on account of non-notifiable Infectious Disease. In this way the department is informed to some extent as to the prevalence of these Diseases. These returns from the Head Teachers are not as complete as is desirable and steps will be taken to effect improvement.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

Total number of rats destroyed 4525. Total number of baits laid 5639.

The average number of rats destroyed each year in the preceding five years is 518.

Seventy-one applications were made by citizens for the services of the Rat-Catcher.

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1930

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1930

TABLE IV.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			3				2	
10		1	1	1				
15			2	1				
20	2	4			2	2		
25	2	4				2		
35	5	5			4	4		
45	4	3	1		2			
55	2	1			1	2		
65 & upwards		1			3			
Totals	15	19	7	2	12	10	2	

The Notifications were divided as follows :

	SOUTH	NORTH	Totals
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	15	34
Non-Pulmonary do.	3	6	9
Totals ...	22	21	43

One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis out of a total of 22 had not been previously notified by the Medical Practitioner in attendance.

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the preceding years are as follows :

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Average for five years	34.4	24.9	17.2	4.4
1930 ...	34	22 (R.G.)	9	2 (R.G.)

One hundred and twenty-eight specimens of sputum were submitted during the year, to Bacteriological Examination, with twenty-eight positive, and one hundred negative results.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this District :—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary, during the year ended 31st December, 1930.

Number of New Cases ...	...	...	105
Total number of attendances (old and new)	...	...	671
Number sent to Institutions	...	...	29
Diagnosis—New Patients	Excluding School Children	School Children (Age 5 to 14)	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31	1	
Surgical do.	5	4	
Bronchitis	3	1	
Other Diseases (including T. & A.)	6	11	
Apparently Healthy	30	11	
Observation	1	1	
	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 29	

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1930:—

Lenham Sanatorium 9, Keycol Hill Hospital 5, Grosvenor Sanatorium 5, S.B. Hospital 1, Preston Hall 2, Sevenoaks Isolation 3, Croydon Boro' Sanatorium 1, St. Bart's, Rochester 1, Alton 1, St. Colombia's Hospital 1. Total 29.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925
No action was necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. Section 62

No action.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1930:—

INFANT MORTALITY

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of age. Rochester District

TABLE V.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total
Premature Birth	7				7	1				
Injury at Birth	1				1					
Cardiac Failure	1	1			2					
Congenital Malformations	3				3	1				
Pneumonia						1	2			
Bronchitis						1				
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus						1				
Other Causes	2				2	2	1	1		
Totals	14	1			15	7	3	1		21

Nett Births registered during the calendar year } legitimate, 455
 } illegitimate, 27

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year } legitimate infants
 } illegitimate infants

Birth Rate—15.1

Infant Mortality Rate—53.9

NOTE.—Two striking features of the above Table are—

- (1) That more than half of the total deaths occurred at the age of under 1 week, and
- (2) That there was no death from Diarrhœa or Enteritis.

According to the Table of the Registrar General on p.4, 18 Still Births were registered during the year, nine of which were males and nine females. Two were illegitimate. There were 30 Still Births in 1929 of which four were illegitimate.

The Health Visitors visit each Infant about eight times in his first year of life and in the year under consideration they have visited 3,977 children between one and five years old, as appears in their report. They are about to receive assistance in their work by the appointment of an additional half-time Health Visitor.

Two half-days in each week are devoted to the distribution of dried milk and an account of this is presented at each meeting of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. The Medical Officer of Health inspects each Mother, Expectant Mother or Child before the grant of milk is given or refused.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1930

During the year, 456 births were registered in the District, of which 25 were still-births. The total was made up as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
South	146	106	252
North	109	95	204
	<hr/> 255	<hr/> 201	<hr/> 456

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

One case was notified from the North side of the River. Both eyes were affected. The case was treated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and recovered.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT

During the year 456 births were registered in the District and 468 were notified under the Act.

Sixteen still-births were notified. The notifications were made up as follows

Doctors	Midwives	Parents
181	285	2

Four hundred and sixty-two infants were visited by the Nurses, who paid a total of 474 visits, or an average of 7.5 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the infants visited:—

Infants visited during 1930: Total Number, 462.

KIND OF FEEDING	Total	Percentages
1. Entirely breast-fed	306	66.2
2. Hand and breast-fed	47	10.1
3. Entirely hand-fed	109	23.5

KIND OF FOOD (when hand fed)—

1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water	5	1.0
2. Dried Milk	126	27.2
3. Patent Foods	1	.2
4. Condensed Milk	23	4.9
5. Biscuits, Oatmeal, etc.	1	.2

MODE OF FEEDING—

1. Boat Shaped Bottle	155	33.5
2. Long Tube Bottle	1	.2
3. Spoon	—	—

CONDITION OF HOUSE—

1. Clean	369	79.8
2. Fairly Clean	74	16.0
3. Dirty	19	4.1

OVERCROWDED HOUSES

More than 2 persons per bedroom: Total 185. Percentage 40.0.

All Infants reckoned breast fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were eight pairs of twins.

Thirty-nine cases not notified under the Act were visited, and are included in the above figures.

In three instances the Nurses were refused admission.

During the year 22 infants died under one year of age. This gives a mortality per thousand births of 48.2.

The R.G.'s number of births is 482, of deaths 26. This gives a mortality of 53.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1930

Notified Births Visited	462
Notified Births Re-visited	3012
Notified Infectious Diseases	5
Notified Infants Deaths enquired into	13
Notified Still Births	9
Infant Life Protection—Children visited	56
Registered Nursing Homes	6
Ante-Natal Visits	145
Children between 1 and 5 years visited	3977
Visits re Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4
Miscellaneous and Ineffectual visits	1270
Total	8959

ATTENDANCES AT MILK DISTRIBUTING CENTRE (from 1st July, 1930)

Children under one year	344
Children over one year	77
Infant Life Protection	4
Ante-Natal	15
Miscellaneous	97
Hospital Tickets given	24

REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1930

327 patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shews the total admissions from each District in the previous five years :—

Year	Rochester	Chatham	Gillingham	Neighbouring Authorities	Total
1926	103	279	175	0	557
1927	78	295	139	11	523
1928	155	263	246	35	699
1929	132	128	202	15	577
1930	119	108	84	16	327

The average number for the ten years preceding 1926 was 256.8.

The average number for the last five years, including 1930, is 516.6.

The following Table shews the total admissions in 1930 :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Totals
Rochester	92	39	0	131
Chatham	73	33	2	108
Gillingham	63	20	1	84
Neighbouring Authorities }	4	0	0	4
	<hr/> 232	<hr/> 92	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 327

The case mortality was as follows:—

	In 1930	In 1929	In 1928	In 1927	In 1926
Scarlet Fever	.8 per cent	.8 per cent.	.7 per cent.	.9 per cent.	1 per cent.
Diphtheria	2.1 per cent	8.6 per cent.	8.2 per cent.	5.9 per cent.	7.7 per cent
Typhoid Fever	No death	No death	No death	No death	No death

The Diphtheria figure of case mortality is very much lower than usual, being only about one quarter of the figures for 1929 and 1928. This is due to the fact that the cases sent into Hospital were generally of a mild character, many of them being diagnosed on Bacteriological grounds only, without any clinical evidence of the disease.

The operation of Tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was performed in the case only and the patient recovered.

WRONG DIAGNOSES

7.3 per cent. of all the cases sent in were wrongly diagnosed.
The figures for the last five years are as follows:—

1930 7.3 per cent., 1929 4.1 per cent., 1928 4.5 per cent., 1927 5.3 per cent., 1926 7.7 per cent.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation of the Hospital has been more than sufficient during the year and all the various blocks are in full working order.

THE STAFF

At the time of writing the Staff of Nurses is smaller by two than what is considered the normal number and the Hospital has been without a Night Superintendent of Nursing for a great part of the year.

During the year no member of the Staff has contracted any Infectious Disease, nor has there been any case of cross-infection amongst the patients.

NUMBER OF DAYS DETAINED IN HOSPITAL

AVERAGES

Scarlet Fever 36.1, Diphtheria 26.7, Typhoid Fever 35.3.

Cases considered wrongly diagnosed and cases terminating in death are not included in these averages.

VERMINOSITY

The following are the figures of verminosity for all Districts and both sexes:—

SCARLET FEVER

	1930	1929	1928	1927
Verminous	9.4 per cent	10.9 per cent	7.8 per cent	20 per cent
Its	11.2 „	5.9 „	12.5 „	14.1 „
Mean	79.3 „	83.1 „	79.5 „	65.8 „

DIPHTHERIA

	1930	1929	1928	1927
Verminous	17 per cent	15.9 per cent	22.5 per cent	40.4 per cent
Its	9.5 „	11.7 „	11.6 „	18.3 „
Mean	73.4 „	72.3 „	65.7 „	41.1 „

These figures still shew a considerable amount of verminosity amongst the patients admitted to Hospital, particularly in the case of Diphtheria.

TABLE VI.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1930
CIVILIANS ONLY

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females
ALL CAUSES.	184	147
1 Enteric fever		
2 Small-pox		
3 Measles		
4 Scarlet fever		1
5 Whooping cough		1
6 Diphtheria		1
7 Influenza	5	1
8 Encephalitis lethargica		
9 Meningococcal meningitis	3	
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	12	10
11 Other tuberculous diseases	2	
12 Cancer, malignant disease	27	17
13 Rheumatic fever	1	
14 Diabetes		4
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	7	10
16 Heart disease	32	45
17 Arterio-sclerosis	11	10
18 Bronchitis	8	9
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	10	4
20 Other respiratory diseases	4	1
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis		1
24 Cirrhosis of liver	2	
25 Acute and chronic nephritis... ..	4	5
26 Puerperal sepsis		
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		1
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	14	2
29 Suicide	2	1
30 Other deaths from violence... ..	7	3
31 Other defined diseases	29	20
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown		
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants { Total	21	5
under 1 year { Illegitimate	1	1
Live Births { Total	265	217
Legitimate	252	203
Illegitimate	13	14
Stillbirths { Total	9	9
Legitimate	8	8
Illegitimate	1	1
POPULATION Mid 1929 { For Birth Rate	31,900	
For Death Rate	31,400	

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

SAYE HOUSE, ROCHESTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY
AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report
to the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1930.

TABLE A.

Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the
year 1930.

		Number	Tonnage	No. Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector		
Foreign	Steamers	276	178926	41	264	85	84
	Motor	51	5793	17	29	8	8
	Sailing	38	2720	16	38	2	2
	Fishing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Foreign		365	187439	74	331	95	94
Coastwise	Steamers	779	274593	36	764	201	198
	Motor	124	11247	15	124	28	28
	Sailing	191	15600	12	180	18	18
	Fishing	26		6	20	1	1
Total Coastwise		1120	301440	69	1088	248	245
Foreign & Coastwise		1485	488879	143	1419	343	339

Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board—Nil
All Notices were informal

Character of Trade of Port

TABLE B.

a. Passenger Traffic during 1930:—

Number of Passengers	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards	0	0	0	12
Outwards	0	0	0	0

Number of Passengers by Steamers running day trips to France—829

b. Cargo traffic:—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS. Bricks, Timber, Wood Pulp, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Stone, Grol, Fertiliser, Tarred Slag, Potatoes, Corn, Grain, various Seeds and Kernels for feeding Cattle Cake and Oil.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. Cement, Cattle Cake, Oil and Paper. Cement is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct or first taken to London, Southampton or Liverpool for trans-shipment.

COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES. Import Trade is carried with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German and Baltic Ports in Europe, with American, Chinese and West African Ports.

The Principal British Ports with which trade is carried on are, the Tyne, Tees and Sunderland, most of the Scottish Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, Cardiff, Swansea Barry and London.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS

British 2051, Dutch 54, Norwegian 37, Belgian 24, Swedish 41, Danish 14 Irish 2, Finnish 15, French 1, American 1, German 5.

III. Source of Water Supply

a. For the Port there are two sources of supply. The South Side of the River is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company and the North Side by the Strood Water Works, the property of the Corporation of Rochester.

Both these waters are subjected to regular periodical Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis, with unvarying good results.

b. The shipping is supplied from the same sources.

c. One Water Boat is used for supplying the shipping, and this boat has been inspected eight times during the year, and its tanks cemented four times.

IV.

Infectious Disease

The arrangements for dealing with Infectious Disease were fully described in the Report for 1927, and have undergone no change.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Disease landed from vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1930		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years	No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew		
	0	0	.2	0

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1930		Average No. of Cases for previous 5 years	No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew		
	0	0	0	0

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox or Typhus Fever, and no Plague infected Rats were found in 1930.

V.

Measures Against Rodents

1. The steps taken for the detection of rodent plague both in ships in the Port and on quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the Port, are the same those described in the Report for 1929, with the exception of details with regard to the number of rats killed and remarks concerning the Bitulin Company.

2. No measures are taken to prevent the passage of rats from ship to shore except where circumstances point to the harbourage of plague-infected rats to be suspected.

In these cases the vessel is moored off in the stream and her cargo discharged in lighters, which, in turn, are discharged alongside the wharf. By these means, the rats are left in the first vessel, which is then fumigated. Where rats are left over in the lighter, she is also fumigated.

When the presence of plague-infected rats is definitely known, the vessel would have to be fumigated before being allowed to discharge cargo, where the procedure previously detailed would be carried out.

3. Methods of deratization used :—

As previously reported, Sulphur Dioxide and the services of the Rat Catcher.

4. The measures taken for detecting rat prevalence both in ships and on shore were described in the Report for 1929.

Certificates of Deratization, under the Paris Convention, are occasionally asked for by vessels, normally engaged in the Home Trade, which are about to proceed to foreign Port. As this Port cannot issue these certificates, the vessel must get them from some other Port, usually the Port of London. These certificates are asked to be shewn when the vessels are being inspected.

5. Rat-proofing. There is practically nothing done in this matter either aboard or ashore.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1930

TABLE E.

1. On Vessels. Twenty three rats were killed by traps, varnish boards and dogs. There was no suspicion of Plague.

TABLE F.

2. In Docks, Quays and Warehouses.

During the year about 760 rats were killed by trapping and cats, by the owners of the principal Grain and Flour warehouses. This does not include 1207 rats caught by the Rat Catcher in riverside premises.

No rats were submitted for bacteriological examination.

TABLE G.

Particulars of Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels arriving in the Port in 1930 are given under the heading of "General Sanitary Work of the Port."

TABLE H.

Vessels (other than those included in Table G.) subjected to measures of rat destruction during 1930 :—

Twenty-three rats were killed as stated in Table E.

No certificates were issued under this Table.

TABLE I.

No certificates were issued under this Table.

Hygiene of Crews Spaces

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances : —.

Nationality of Vessel	No. Inspected during 1930	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through Wear and Tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
British	1225	11	100	346
Other Nations	194	2	6	90
Barges	793	1	27	25

Food Inspection

1. Cargoes of Flour, Wheat, Potatoes, Meal, Oats, Sugar, Linseed, Malt, Barley, Peas and Maize to the number of 107, and Winkles, Mussels and Clams to the amount of 47 bushels were examined.
2. Shell Fish. See remarks re Water Samples under "General Sanitary Work."
3. It was not found necessary to submit any article of food for either Bacteriological or Chemical Examination.

Other Information

Port of Rochester

REPORT AS TO EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1930

Name and Address of Inspector—H. EVANS, 61 Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.

Remuneration ... £4 per annum.

Number of boats detained during the year.	0
„ new boats registered 	0
„ boats re-registered owing to structural alteration ...	0
„ „ „ for other reasons 	0
„ boats on Register on December 31st, 1930 ...	15
„ „ inspected 	42
„ „ with one or more infringements 	31
„ infringements remedied 	10
„ women on boats inspected 	0
„ children under 5 years 	0
„ boats on Register 	15

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS

Boats without Certificates 	12
Boats not properly marked 	4
Boats not in cleanly condition 	6
Defective bulkheads 	1
Wet decks causing wet berths 	5
Contaminated cabins 	3

No case of Infectious Disease was met with, nor was it necessary to take legal steps in respect of any infringement.

Owing to the fact that 25 boats were in such a condition as to render them unfit for use as Canal Boats they have been struck off the Register. Some are used as lighters and others have been sold for breaking up.

2

GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT

a. The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Senior Sanitary Inspector and one Assistant Sanitary Inspector, the latter being fully qualified.

b. A Motor Launch is provided.

c. The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons, but in case of need the Disinfecting Station at the Medway Infirmary would be at the disposal of the Port Authorities.

d. There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem necessary at present.

e. In addition to the Cargo Traffic of the Port there are 7 large day-trip Passenger Steamers, 5 operating between the Kentish and Essex seaside resorts and Rochester and 2 between France and Rochester. It has not been necessary to fumigate or deratize any of these vessels during the year. The owners keep their vessels free from vermin by the systematic use of vermin-destroyer, applied by means of a spray.

f. As the Port Sanitary District embraces many creeks which extend far inland and can only be reached by launch at high tide, these have to be approached by bus cycle.

g. There are a few small vessels on the River used as permanent dwellings and these are visited from time to time under the Act relating to Tents, Vans and Sheds, which includes Boats.

h. Three vessels arriving from the West Coast of Africa with Ground Nuts were kept under observation, as is usual with this class of vessel, whether the Port loading is reputed free from Plague, Cholera or Yellow Fever, or not.

i. Samples of River Water in the vicinity of the Sewage Outfall at Motley Island and also near the middle of the River at that point, were taken by the Medical Officer of Health and submitted to Bacteriological Examination. The results were not such as to justify the taking of further action.

3.

CASES OF SICKNESS

Forty-seven cases of sickness were treated by private doctors. All of these cases were non-infectious and there were no deaths.

4

GENERAL

Otterham Quay, Halstow and Whitewall were visited from time to time and no matter for comment.

Riverside Factories and Wharves have been periodically visited and the Regulations duly posted.

Twenty-one dead dogs found on the foreshore or afloat were disinfected and buried.

COMPLETE LIST OF VESSELS INSPECTED IN 1930

Ships ...	...	...	...	1419
Barges	...	...	...	723
Canal Boats	...	...	...	42
Lighters	...	...	...	60
Water Boat	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				2245
				<hr/>

The following are the figures for the preceding ten years :—

1929	...	2209	1924	...	1830
1928	...	2180	1923	...	1931
1927	...	2194	1922	...	2018
1926	...	2075	1921	...	1867
1925	...	1753	1920	...	2011

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Port Medical Officer of Health

